

# Thunder Words



## *September Victory Lane Tour 9/26/2020*

*The black 1964 Thunderbird was a guest of Victory Lane, not a Nebraskaland member.*

**October 2020 ~ Volume 43, #10  
Dedicated to the 55, 56, & 57 Thunderbird  
Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 65, Classic Thunderbird Club International**



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### Prez Says,

OMGJAN! That stands for “Oh, my gosh **Joel** and **Nancy!**” Many members, guests and new members **Jay** and

**Diane Sterns** from Lincoln thoroughly enjoyed the tour and history of **Joel** and **Nancy’s** beautiful 9 car “garage” Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Check out the photo’s courtesy of **Todd Sanford** and **Terry Wolfe**. The Victory Lane tour and photo op was out of this world. For just under \$200,000 you can have your own car (or whatever) bay. Again, photos tell the story. Speaking of stories, **Mike Patak** and **Amber** of Mike’s Classic Cars had one story after another. Particularly those about **Jay Leno** and **Amber’s** successes in “a man’s world.” **Amber** is a gem who convinced **Mike** to focus on classic car modifications as being what young car enthusiasts want. Take a classic Mustang for instance, add a \$50,000 muscle car front end with massive horsepower and all modern technology, and you’re “in.” Thanks to **Jeff Hoffman** and **Jack Sanford** for including the triple drive-through at **Esprit Whispering Ridge**. **Jack’s** map was helpful. There was a good crowd who seemed to enjoy our parade. The October meeting in North Bend will include nominations of next year’s officers. Please contact **Gaylan** if interested. Elections will be held at the Christmas party. Thanks to all for a great September outing!

**Rob Kinsey, President**

### October Club Event

**Leroy’s Steak House, North Bend**

**Ted Dimmitt & Fran Graser Hosts**

**October 22, 2020, 6:00 PM**

**See page 4 for directions**



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### Minutes

The September Meeting of the Nebraskaland Thunderbird Club took place in the garage of **Joel** and **Nancy Schlessinger**, 1:00 PM, September 26, 2020. This was the first stop of three events. There were seventeen members, two guests, seven Little Birds and **Marge Schultz’s** ’55 Victoria Ford present.

The meeting was called to order by **Rob Kinsey**. He thanked everyone for coming out under the Covid-19 restrictions. New Members **Jay** and **Diane Sterns** were introduced. The two guests were **Dave Arnknecht**, friend of **Lauren Drees** and **Todd Sanford**, son of **Jack Sanford**.

The August minutes as printed in the September newsletter were unanimously approved.

The treasurer was not present. The President reported that the club was financially sound.

#### Old Business:

**Ted Dimmitt** and **Fran Graser** will host our October event. A meeting and nominations for officers will be the agenda. November is open. Weather permitting an impromptu event could be arranged. December 6, 2020 is the Christmas Party.

#### New Business:

The President thanked **Joel** and **Nancy** for showing their garage and providing cookies, ice cream and drinks. He went on to thank **Joel** for setting up the visits to Victory Lane and Mike’s Classic Cars. He thanks **Jeff Hoffman** and **Jack Sanford** for arranging the drive through at **Esprit Whispering Ridge**. **Marty** suggested, because of 2020 being a pandemic year, that all the current officers retain their respective positions. There was no action on this matter as all the officers were not present. After the meeting it was revealed that **Gaylan Abood** would not be seeking to serve as secretary in 2021.



**Brag Box**

**Ron Schultz** had a brag. He removed his mask and revealed the following:



He said if he had to live like a hermit, he had ought to look like one.

**Rob Kinsey** had a brag and he brought it with him. He again thanked Tom, John, and Marty for their help. He brought his new soft top.



The President asked for a motion to close the meeting. A motion to close was made by **Mary Lou** and Seconded by **John La Duke** which passed unanimously at 1:45 PM.



**T-Bird Tech Talk**

*By Martin Bierman*  
 "The case of the misplaced deck hold-down plates"

**Rob Kinsey** has been restoring a 1957 soft top frame this summer and I have been helping him. After completing the rear bow restoration which included welding the three pieces to form a solid bow and replacing the '57 style clamps we discovered that when the top was clamped down on the deck hold-down plates that the clamps levers faced forward. The car had been repainted and



the hold-down plates had been removed and replaced during that process. Moreover, his hardtop clamps also faced forward. We

removed the deck hold-down plates and studied how the clamp's bullet would have to move to have the lever face laterally. It then became apparent that the deck hold-down plates had been installed incorrectly with the right placed on the left side and vice versa. Flipping the deck hold-down plates to the opposite side solved the problem. I also recalled that on my blue '55 restoration the plates' sides were marked LH and RH but had to be placed on the opposite sides to work. So, if your top clamp handles do not point laterally when clamped consider that the deck hold-down plates may be on the wrong side.

Don't forget your CTCI Director's vote. **Fred Artus** has dropped his name and is not running for Director at Large.



## Member Activity

Marty caught **Bob McGowan** working hard on his '57 T-Bird.



*Looks nice!*

## October Meeting & Dinner

Hosts **Ted Dimmitt & Fran Graser**

October 22, 2020, 6:00 PM

Leroy's Steak House

North Bend, NE

Leroy's is on the east side of North Bend, NE on highway 30. Sixteen miles west of Fremont.

## November

Nothing scheduled.

## December

Christmas Party

Hosts **Bob & Jan Sibel**

December 5, 2020, 6:00 PM

Ferguson House

Lincoln, NE.

**Editor's note:** Given the uncertainties of COVID – 19, we will abide by all safe practices as outlined by the authorities. Currently face masks are mandatory along with six foot spacing.

## Member Profile

Please submit your T-Bird story to Jack at [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net). We would love to hear your Thunderbird story.

The October 2020 ENWICC Fall Foliage Picnic has been cancelled due to the Covid19 Virus.



## **For Sale**

### **1956 YELLOW THUNDERBIRD**

Well maintained with papers, 14,000 miles after restoration, automatic, 312 V8 rebuilt engine, aluminum radiator with 8 blade fan and new battery. Well maintained gearbox, power brakes and steering. High cap water pump. Full wire wheels, rear air shocks with anti-sway bar suspension front and rear. Soft top and continental kit. Nice chrome. Yellow and black interior with under dash cool air conditioning and center seat console for drinks and large arm rest. In dash radio and CD player with rear speakers. My husband passed and I need to sell to a new owner who will appreciate and enjoy our '56 Yellow Bird as much as we did. Located in Johnston, Iowa. Inquire at **(515) 360-3816**. Priced to sell at \$28,000 and **you can drive it home.**



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## Pictures from September 26, 2020



Lined up at Joel and Nancy's.  
Ready to roll.



Cars and drivers.



New paint and top up.



Cars without drivers.



They are really different!



Cars on display.



Our first stop.



Cars on display.





The insides of a unit.



Rob showing his new top.



Our next visit.



Our last stop.



Joel and Nancy cruising by.



Amber and Mike with Jay Leno



Folks enjoying the parade.



Mike in the main shop.





Mike's second shop building.



Mike's and Amber's Mustangs.



Mike's third building.



Mike's die cast car collection.



Mike's bullet '69 Mustang.



Mike's fourth building.



These embroidered 2 x 3 1/2 inch logos can be sewn on or glued with fabric glue onto shirts, jackets, caps, dashboards, etc. Get yours from Jack at [jesanford@cox.net](mailto:jesanford@cox.net)

**Logo Prices**

- 1 logo - \$5
- 2 logos - \$8
- 3 logos - \$13
- 4 logos - \$18
- 5 logos - \$22
- 6 logos - \$26
- 7 logos - \$31
- 8 logos - \$35
- 9 logos - \$39
- 10 logos - \$43

**Thanks, Todd Sanford, for the tour pictures. Victory Lane cover picture by Terry Wolfe**







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